



Presenter	Biography
Abbott, Marissa	<p>Marissa is a California Epidemiologic Investigation Service (Cal-EIS) Fellow at the California Department of Public Health. She is placed in the Safe and Active Communities Branch and primarily supports the CDC-funded California Essentials for Childhood Initiative, a child maltreatment prevention project. Prior to her fellowship, Marissa completed her Master of Public Health (MPH) degree at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry as a part of their 3-2 Program.</p>
Adrian, Monica	<p>Monica is an Ambassador to California for the Center for Disease Control's Learn the Signs. Act Early. campaign. She helps expand the reach of the Learn the Signs. Act Early. program and supports California's work toward improving early identification of developmental delays. She has over 20 years of experience working in the Early Education Field. She has supervised intervention programs for children with autism and has worked as a child care provider in a center-based setting. Ms. Adrian has participated in the Statewide Screening Collaborative and is a consultant with the California Inclusion and Behavior Consultation Network. She supervises the Merced County Office of Education's Caring Kids Program which provides social skills and behavioral intervention to children, and provides training and support for parents, teachers and child-care providers. She also helped create and supervises the Early Connections Program, a collaborative screening and referral program which connects children in the Merced County child welfare system to early intervention programs. Ms. Adrian, received her Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies with a Concentration in Child Development, an Education Specialist Credential: Moderate/Severe Disabilities, an Education Specialist Credential: Mild/Moderate Disabilities, and a Multiple Subjects Teaching Credential from California State University, Stanislaus.</p>
Altmayer, Christina	<p>Christina joined First 5 LA as the Vice President of Programs in May of 2016 and brings a wealth of experience working with early childhood programs and county commissions throughout California on evaluation, strategic planning, financial management, and program implementation. In this new role, Christina will coordinate First 5 LA's Strategic Plan implementation and systems investments in the four children's outcomes prioritized in the Strategic Plan: family strengthening; community capacity building; children's health; and, early childhood education. Prior to joining First 5 LA, Christina served as the Executive Director of the Children and Families Commission of Orange County for approximately four years. Her leadership focused on developing diversified funding to sustain the Commission's impact on early childhood health and school readiness, including exploring the feasibility of Pay for Success transactions for the Commission's home visitation initiative, and building successful county, state, and national partnerships to promote the strategic priorities. As Executive Director, she oversaw a portfolio of over \$35 million in grants to hospitals, schools, and community-based agencies in the Commission's goal areas of healthy development, early learning, family strengthening and capacity building. Christina also played a pivotal role in shaping the implementation of the first Help Me Grow system in California, as the program director for the Orange County Commission's pediatric health investments. As President of</p>

Altmayer Consulting, Christina specialized in management consulting to public and nonprofit agencies.

She has worked extensively with government agencies at the state, county, and community level on strategic planning, performance management, evaluation, and innovative program design. Christina is the author of several publications on performance management and is a frequent speaker on the topic. She has a BA and MA in Public Administration from St. John's University, New York.

Aroner, Dion Dion is deeply rooted in California government. After six years as a State Assemblywoman and 25 years as Chief of Staff to her predecessor, Tom Bates, she knows how to get things done in state government. She is an undisputed expert in state budget and human services issues, and has the institutional memory to help clients successfully navigate the Legislature and Administration. She began her career as a social worker for Alameda County and developed her leadership skills at an early age by becoming the first woman president of Service Employees International Union 535. Dion is a native San Franciscan, a proud graduate of UC Berkeley, and a long-time resident of the East Bay. She serves on the Boards of Freight and Salvage (a folk music venue in Berkeley), Seneca Center (serving severely emotionally disturbed children), and Safe Kids California.

Bachez, Sara Sara is the Assistant Executive Director of Governmental Relations at CASBO. In that capacity, she represents over 3,000 school business officials statewide on legislative matters affecting public education finance. Prior to assuming her current role at CASBO, she served as Legislative Advocate for the Association of California School Administrators. Sara began her career in public policy as a legislative fellow; and then served for five years as a budget consultant for the Assembly Budget Committee where she administered \$15 billion in state General Fund expenditures for California's higher education systems, the California Student Aid Commission, child care and development programs, and the California Employment and Development Department. Sara received a BA in Mass Communications from the University of California, Berkeley, and an MBA from California State University, Sacramento.

Baptiste, Yvette Yvette received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology with an emphasis in multicultural community psychology from Alliant International University in Los Angeles, and her B.A. in Behavioral Science from the University of Chicago. As Executive Director of the Eastern Los Angeles Family Resource Center, Yvette helps local families and their children (with special healthcare and developmental needs) navigate the various systems. She is the adoptive mother of three children with various health and developmental needs. Yvette has worked as a foster care social worker and as a clinician in various settings (therapeutic nonpublic schools, pediatric clinics, and criminal justice settings). She has 30 years of experience in social services and the developmental disabilities system.

Barnhart, Melissa Melissa is a Senior Research Analyst at Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP). In this role, she supports the organization in analyzing the longitudinal outcomes for students who have attended LAUP preschools. Melissa has a Ph.D. in developmental psychology, and has a particular interest in social networks and quantitative research methods. In the past 15 years, she has utilized her research skills in numerous applied settings.

**Barzaga,
Conrado**

Conrado is Executive Director at the Center for Oral Health; a California based nonprofit research and professional education institute. He's an internationally recognized public health leader with nearly 20 years of progressively important positions with organizations addressing healthcare issues. He has served in leadership positions for the Los Angeles County Commission on Children and Families First (First 5 LA), Planned Parenthood, and Sacred Heart University's Area Health Education Center. Prior to his appointment to the Executive Director position with the Center for Oral Health, Dr. Bárzaga directed the Oral Health Investments for the First 5 Los Angeles Commission and helped develop The Los Angeles Oral Health Needs Assessment of Underprivileged Children. As a national and international public health leader and coalition builder, Dr. Bárzaga's works have been published in various public health journals and has presented at national and international conferences. He has extensive experience in philanthropy and in international advancement of health systems and services, such as developing the Community Health Infrastructure with the Bolivian Ministry of Health and Doctors without Borders. He is a Coro Fellow (Health Leadership Program) and earned his Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree from the University of Havana in 1994. He also completed a Senior Dental Health Fellowship with King's College London and Harvard University in 2014. He is passionate about integrated care and finding practical solutions to improve health outcomes and reduce the cost of care while improving the quality of care.

Benz, Leah

Leah is a Program, Planning, and Evaluation Analyst for First 5 Sonoma County. She serves as the Quality Counts Administrator for Sonoma County's Quality Rating and Improvement System, as well as the IMPACT Hub Lead for Region 1. Prior to working for First 5 Sonoma, Leah worked for 12 years at Marin County's Resource & Referral Agency, Marin Child Care Council. She is a graduate of Sonoma State University and lives in Petaluma with her husband and 10-year-old daughter.

**Blakemore,
Elizabeth J.**

Elizabeth serves as Assistant Director of Child Development Programs and Services at the El Dorado County Office of Education. She coordinates the El Dorado County Child Abuse Prevention Council, the Early Care and Education Planning Council, Early Care and Education Quality Improvement and Professional Development Programs, including High 5 for Quality and CARES Plus. Before joining the County Office of Education, she served as administrator for the Early Childhood Counseling Center, a parent educator, and program manager. She holds a Master's Degree in Education from the University of California, Davis.

**Blankenship,
DeAnne**

DeAnne started her career in health education in 1990 with the American Lung Association of California. Since 2005, she has worked for the California Health Collaborative as the Director of Research and Development. DeAnne is a committed advocate for women, and specializes in facilitating community partnerships, program planning, and helping to build community capacity for health. DeAnne resides in Chico, where she enjoys mushroom hunting and spending time with her husband and her two busy young adult children.

**Bloom,
David W.**

David earned his B.A. in Psychology from California State University, Los Angeles and his Master's in Experimental Psychology from California State University, Northridge (CSUN). David joined Child Care Resource Center of California (CCRC) in 2013 where he currently works as a Senior Research Analyst. David currently serves as the lead analyst for The Choose Health LA Child Care (CHLACC) program, a partnership between CCRC, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (CCALA), to promote higher quality nutritional and physical activity environments in child care settings. He is serving as the lead analyst and a consulting contributor for the Los Angeles County DPH Emergency Preparedness and Response Program collaboration, with DPH and CCALA seeking to improve the level of preparedness and resilience of Resource and Referral Agencies and child care providers. David also serves as the lead analyst and a significant contributor for the federally funded Child Care Research Partnership Project, a partnership between the California Department of Education Early Education and Support Division, CSUN, and CCRC. This 4-year statewide project examines quality improvement and professional development activities and engagement among Family Child Care providers in the context of California's Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge Quality Rating and Improvement System.

**Bowen,
Laura**

Laura is a Communications Manager at VIVA Strategy + Communications, a social impact consulting firm, providing strategy and communications services to nonprofits, public agencies, and philanthropic organizations. At VIVA, Laura develops outcomes-focused communications and brand strategies, and manages social, digital, and traditional marketing campaigns. She has developed QRIS communications plans, brand identities, and communications materials for numerous counties in California, as well as planned and executed strategic communications efforts supporting children and families. Previously, she managed marketing and communications for a national healthcare association and worked in client services at a leading branding agency. She is also a former classroom teacher. Laura has a Master of Arts in Global Communications from the American University of Paris and a B.A. in English and French from Lafayette College.

**Boxley,
Sheila**

Sheila, President and CEO of the Child Abuse Prevention Center (CAP), has dedicated her talents to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Sheila started with the CAP Center in 1997 when it was one agency of five dedicated individuals, and has molded it into a five-agency collaborative with more than 30 employees and a 25-member Board. The Center operates under four core strategies of Advocacy, Education, Health, and Safety. Each strategy takes a separate approach to ensure happy upbringings of future generations. Sheila collaborates with multi-disciplinary partners and sits on several local and statewide committees, each playing an important role in keeping children safe. She serves as a member of the California Child Welfare Council, Voices for National Service Steering Committee, Essentials for Childhood Leadership Team, and Chair of the Community Engagement Committee, Family Support Collaborative Management, Funding the Next Generation Advisory Committee, and others. Sheila will soon be celebrating her 20th anniversary at the CAP Center.

Brody, David David is the Executive Director of First 5 Santa Cruz County and previously served as the Chief Program Officer at First 5 Santa Clara County. David received his B.A. in Planning, Public Policy, and Management from the University of Oregon, and a Master's in Management with a Concentration in Children, Youth, and Families from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University. Prior to joining First 5, David worked at the Corporation for Standards and Outcomes, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston, and the Urban League of Portland, Oregon. In his career, David has played a leadership role in the development of a number of successful initiatives including the creation of a center for community research in Portland, Oregon, a city-wide task force on out-of-school time in Boston, and a countywide early screening, assessment, and treatment system for young children in Santa Clara County.

Brooks, Carolyn Carolyn is a credentialed Preschool – High School teacher with over 20 years of teaching experience, as well as a Youth Services Librarian with extensive experience working with 0 to 5 year-olds in the area of early literacy with First 5 El Dorado and County Agencies. Carolyn has been a Mentor Teacher in the areas of Storytelling, Literacy, and Math, and she was also the district Kindergarten Teacher Trainer in Literacy, Math, and Behavior Management. Currently, Carolyn is the Branch Manager of the El Dorado Hills Library and works closely with the County Office of Education, First 5 El Dorado Initiative Groups, Kindergarten and Child Care Providers throughout El Dorado County, and is a founding member of the California State Library Early Learning Advisory Committee.

Burt, Sloane Sloane is an Operations Specialist in the Early Childhood Programs department at the Ventura County Office of Education. She plays a role in the administration and implementation of various aspects of the Ventura County QRIS system and special projects, such as the Infant-Toddler Block grant, with a focus on professional development and ratings. Sloane has a B.A. in Child Development, an M.A. in Early Childhood Education, 10 years of experience as a professor, as well as experience in research, project management, and as an ECE consultant.

Buthee, Nina Nina Buthee is an expert in organizational management, strategic planning, and fundraising for nonprofit organizations. She is the Executive Director of the California Child Development Administrators Association with over 15 years of experience advocating for and educating early care and education professionals. Awarded the Association Executive of the Year by the California Society for Association Executives, and certification in Organizational Management by the US Chamber of Commerce. She is engaged as an executive, speaker, analyst, and consultant specializing in leadership, advocacy for employee rights, creating empowering and safe working conditions, and organizational efficiencies.

Callahan, Evette Evette works for the San Diego County Office of Education as a Coordinator, Assessment and Family Engagement, First 5 San Diego Quality Preschool Initiative. For the past five years she has coordinated the screening, assessment, and family engagement practices throughout the initiative which serves over 15,000 preschool age children. She holds a Ph.D. in Education with an emphasis in Special Education along with over 12 years' experience as a School Psychologist working with diverse populations.

**Carroll,
Candace**

Candace provides technical assistance and training to individuals, public and private nonprofit organizations and partnerships that strengthen families and communities. Candace graduated from CSU, Fresno, with a BA degree in environmental geography and a minor in biology. She also has an associate's degree in business from Erie Business Center in Erie, Pennsylvania. Candace also was director of a Community Partnership program for eight years, developing, organizing, and facilitating several networks and local coalitions of agency and community representatives to improve the quality of life in local communities.

Casey, Sean

Sean is the Executive Director of First 5 Contra Costa County and has worked in the maternal and child health field for over twenty years. He has worked at First 5 Contra Costa since 2000, first as the organization's Evaluation Manager, then as Deputy Director. Before joining the organization, Sean created the Fetal/Infant Mortality Review Project at the Perinatal Network of Alameda-Contra Costa, a case review of infant and fetal deaths to learn how health and social services can better prevent infant mortality. He went on to support and train similar programs in numerous California counties and in several states. He also worked at UCSF to help maternal and child health programs develop better data for program analysis. Sean holds Master's degrees in Social Welfare and Public Health from U.C. Berkeley and majored in music at Oberlin College.

Chan, Sheryl

Sheryl is currently the Coordinator of Child Development Programs in Moreland School District. Prior to her current position, she was the Child Development Director at South San Francisco Unified School District. She has been in the Child Development field for over 20 years as an assistant, teacher, assistant principal, and director. She was a mentor teacher and on the mentor selection committee for several years. Sheryl has been a professional development trainer, and parent educator. She is also a consultant for the Low-income Investment Fund supporting Child Development administrators on program planning and budget. Sheryl has a BA in Human Development, Multiple Subject Credential and an MA in Education.

**Chavez,
Ashley**

Ashley has been the Quality Counts Program Director in Sonoma County, California since October 2016. Prior to her current position, Ashley spent two years as an Early Learning Coach for the Quality Counts Program. From 2006-2014, Ashley worked as an Early Childhood Educator in Sonoma State University's Children's School infant/toddler program and is an infant-toddler specialist for the Program for Infant and Toddler Care. She joined the Sonoma State University School of Education as adjunct faculty in 2013 teaching Child Development courses. Ashley earned both her Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Master's degree in Early Childhood Education at Sonoma State University.

**Collosi,
Christina
Bath**

Christina is Founder and Managing Partner at VIVA Strategy + Communications, a Bay Area social impact consulting firm that partners with public, nonprofit, and philanthropic organizations to advance their goals, ignite their passions, and reimagine their possibilities. Her 20 years of experience include progressive roles as a teacher, school counselor, nonprofit manager, and First 5 Commission Program and Evaluation Director. This work serves as the foundation for her work at VIVA, where she focuses on large-scale projects that improve outcomes for children, families, and communities. In the past five years, Christina and her team have spent considerable time supporting the implementation of Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) under California's Early Learning Challenge Race to the Top efforts. This has included consultation to over half of California's QRIS Race to the Top County Consortia. Christina has a School Counseling Credential and Master's in Education from CSU Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and a Bachelor's in Biology from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

**Corral,
Gloria**

Gloria is the Assistant Executive Director at First 5 San Diego where she oversees San Diego County's Quality Early Learning efforts for the First 5 San Diego Commission along with other initiatives for children ages 0 to 5 and their families. She has been working in early learning for the past 12 years in policy, program, and advocacy. During her tenure as Deputy Director at First 5 San Francisco she launched the first universal Preschool for All effort in the state. Her background in K-12 and higher education spans almost 20 years and includes work at the U.S. Department of Education and both houses of Congress. Her extensive knowledge of system integration is both from a policy and programmatic perspective over years of working with state departments of education, nonprofits, and large school districts. She holds an undergraduate degree from University of California, San Diego and a Master's degree from University of California, Berkeley. She is the parent of two vivacious boys who test her theoretical knowledge of early learning every day.

Crane, Elise

Elise is currently on the Data and Evaluation team and oversees Quality Strategies at the Office of Early Care and Education in San Francisco. For over 12 years Elise led a substantial workforce development portfolio at the Human Services Agency including building national model compensations programs for licensed center and family child care homes, growing to over \$12 million. She participated in the development and contract management of local strategies to increase employment opportunities and education of marginalized populations through local and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding; increased ECE workforce access to education plans by academic counselors; increased educational pathways; and stipends for educational attainment, including the utilization of AB 212 and California Transitional Kindergarten Stipends program funds. She led the development of the CA Early Care and Education Workforce Registry with collaborative partnerships with Los Angeles and Santa Clara, state agencies, critical partners in the child development workforce development field, and local foundations, including the Mimi and Peter Haas Fund and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. Ms. Crane is a Board Member of the National Workforce Registry Alliance, a Commissioner at First 5 Solano, and Vacaville Planning Commissions. Elise graduated from the University of Washington with a B.A. in Sociology and a Master's in Public Administration with a concentration in Education and Social Policy and Fiscal Management. She lives in Vacaville with her husband and three children.

**Davis,
Deborah**

Deborah, RN, is the Founder and Executive Director of Children's Nurturing Project (CNP), a Solano County-based nonprofit agency serving high risk infants, children and families. Ms. Davis also coordinates the Solano Early Childhood Developmental Health Collaborative, known since 2013 as Help Me Grow Solano, a Help Me Grow National affiliate with over 50 private and public partner agencies represented, all working toward a common goal of earlier identification of infants and children with special needs, and a more integrated and coordinated system of care across boundaries of discipline, agency, and funding. CNP also provides community based trauma-informed mental health services for children throughout Solano County.

**Dieterle,
Kevin**

Kevin is a Program Officer at First 5 Los Angeles where he manages several contracts within the organization's early childhood education portfolio and leads the organization's work around quality rating and improvement systems. Prior to joining First 5 LA, Kevin served as Grants Program Manager for the American Educational Research Association's Grants Program. Kevin also worked at ICF International where he served as Deputy Project Director for the CDC's School Health Policies and Practices Study 2012 and as a Project Officer for the Administration for Children and Families Responsible Fatherhood program. In addition, Kevin has worked extensively with the U.S. Navy Child and Youth Programs and the National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center. Kevin holds a Master of Public Policy degree from Georgetown University and a Bachelor of Science degree from Cornell University.

**Doan, Mary
Anne**

Mary Anne has been the QRIS Administrator for First 5 Alameda County since the beginning of the RTT grant. She has over 40 years of experience in the ECE field, including administering Quality Improvement training and technical assistance programs regionally and nationally, developing and implementing international programs for young children and families in Rwanda and India, and as a Director of CSPP, CCTR, and College Child Development Centers. She has also worked with 30 Native American tribal ECE and Head Start programs in the U.S. and Canada. She has a Master's degree in Education with a specialization in Early Childhood /Special Education.

**Dooley,
Diana**

Diana was appointed Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency in December 2010 by Governor Jerry Brown. She leads 13 state departments within the Agency, chairs Covered California (the Health Benefit Exchange) and serves as chair or member of numerous other boards and commissions. Previously, Dooley was President and CEO of the California Children's Hospital Association. Dooley began her career as an analyst for the State and in 1975, she was appointed to the staff of Governor Jerry Brown for whom she served as Legislative Secretary and Special Assistant until the end of his term in 1983. Before becoming an attorney in 1995, she owned a public relations and advertising agency. Dooley moved into health care in 2000 when she left her private law practice to serve as General Counsel and Vice President at Valley Children's Hospital. She received her bachelor's degree from California State University, Fresno in 1972 and her law degree from San Joaquin College of Law in 1995. She is married to Dan Dooley and has two adult daughters and two grandchildren.

**Dukakis,
Kara**

Kara is Senior Vice President of the Strong Families and Early Learning Division at the Opportunity Institute, which includes the early childhood and working families policy portfolio, and Director of Too Small to Fail. Previously based at Next Generation, Too Small to Fail is a joint initiative with the Clinton Foundation, which seeks to help parents and businesses take meaningful actions to improve the health and well-being of America's youngest children, ages 0 to 5, and prepare them to succeed in the 21st century. Kara oversees the strategic direction of Too Small to Fail, with an emphasis on the place-based (cities) strategy, scaling, and evaluation. Kara's background includes a focus on early childhood, K-12, and postsecondary education policy, as well as child welfare and mental health policy and practice. Prior to joining Next Generation and The Opportunity Institute, Kara was the Associate Director and a Senior Community Engagement Associate at the John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities at Stanford University, where she directed the Center's community engagement work. She also led a multi-year initiative on college readiness indicators, and a review of best practices for college access and completion among young men of color. Earlier in her career, Kara was Chair of the San Francisco First 5 Commission and worked at Children Now. She received her B.A. degree from Brown University and a Master's in Social Welfare from U.C. Berkeley.

**Dumke, Kelly
A.**

Kelly works for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health with the Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Initiative. Kelly has worked internationally in public health nutrition, targeting childhood obesity prevention and healthful eating. She received her bachelor's degree in Psychobiology from UCLA and her Master's Degree in Nutrition from Tufts University, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, specializing in nutrition communication and public health. She has spent the last several years developing strategies to curb the growing obesity epidemic for the European Commission's Platform for Diet, Physical Activity, and Health; researching and evaluating interventions at the Childhood Obesity Research Center; and promoting health among Los Angeles youth with the Department of Public Health's Choose Health LA Kids Program.

**Eastin,
Delaine**

Delaine served as the California State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) for eight years from 1995 to 2003, the first and only woman in history elected to that position. As an elected constitutional officer, Delaine managed more than 40% of the California budget and oversaw the education of 6.1 million children. Superintendent Eastin championed state standards and assessments aligned to standards, reduced class size in kindergarten through third grade, a strengthening of arts education and hands-on science, including gardens in school. As SPI she fought to rebuild California school libraries and to wire schools for technology. Delaine has been an advocate for substantial increases in school construction funding, improved school nutrition, universal preschool, full-day mandatory kindergarten, better career and technical education, and greater civic engagement of students. She was the Honorary Co-Chair of Proposition 10, which created First 5 commissions in every county to improve child development opportunities for children from birth to age 5. She served as a Regent to the University of California and a Trustee to California State University.

Erwin, Steve Steve has spent 40 years working in a variety of capacities to promote, educate, and advocate for young children and their families. He has a B.A. in Child Development and post graduate work in Preschool Special Education. His work experience includes being a family childcare provider, owner of a childcare center, Head Start and State Preschool administrator, and Head Start reviewer. He has enjoyed a geographical perspective of early care and education throughout the United States including American Samoa, China, and Viet Nam. Recently he worked at the Associated Students Child Development Lab at California State University and adjunct faculty for the Child Development Program. He is currently the National Early Childhood Specialist for Kaplan Early Learning Company.

Ettlinger, Gabrielle Gabrielle is a Program Analyst for Choose Health LA Kids, a program of the Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Initiative, administered by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and funded by First 5 LA. Gabrielle received her M.P.A. from CUNY Bernard Baruch College. She has spent ten years managing programs and grants focused on nutrition and school wellness in New York City and Los Angeles County.

Fernandez, Alexis Alexis is Chief of the CalFresh Policy Section at the California Department of Social Services. She works with local, state and federal partners to advance the Department's CalFresh strategic program goals, including streamlining benefit delivery, expanding work opportunities and increasing participation. Previously, she was the Policy Director at the First 5 Association of California and the Director of Legislation at California Food Policy Advocates. She received her Master of Social Work degree with an emphasis on management and planning from UC Berkeley and a BA in Ethnic Studies from UC San Diego.

Finello, Karen Moran Karen is a Project Director with the WestEd Center for Prevention & Early Intervention, where she oversees the external evaluation of the California Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program. In addition to her MIECHV evaluation work, she provides consultation to school districts, hospitals, and community, state, national, and international organizations in the areas of infant mental health, early childhood development, reflective supervision, and program development. She is an applied developmental psychologist with a specialization in birth to five-year-olds and their families. Her clinical and research expertise lies in early intervention, infant and preschool behavior, assessment, cultural components of child rearing, poverty issues, home visiting, and the development of high-risk infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. She has developed, directed, and evaluated home visiting programs since 1983, focused on Neonatal Intensive Care Unit graduates, very young children with behavioral and mental health issues, infants and toddlers with significant health care needs, and families of infants and toddlers dealing with life-threatening conditions and terminal illnesses in their children. Karen also serves as an Associate Professor in the Emeriti Center at USC and Professor of Clinical Psychology at the California School of Professional Psychology, Los Angeles. She received a Ph.D. in developmental psychology from USC.

Fish, Jan

Jan is PEACH Co-Lead Consultant and holds an Ed.D. in Early Childhood and Developmental Studies from the University of California at Los Angeles. She has served as IHE faculty member at several CCC, CSU Northridge, and coordinator of both the B.A. in CD and M.A. in ECE at CSU Northridge for more than 30 years. Jan has held three Fulbright positions in Early Childhood in Uruguay and Spain. She has been invited to contribute to international journals, as an international keynote speaker, and consultant in Chile on related early childhood topics. Jan has served as Lead Consultant for PEACH for its first five years and currently serves on the California Core Team developing a state implementation plan for IHE in response to the IOM report, Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth Through Age 8.

Fisher-Dahms, Cecelia

Cecelia is the Administrator of the Quality Improvement Office in the Early Education and Support Division of the California Department of Education. She is responsible for California's early learning foundations, quality improvement activities described in the state's Child Care and Development Fund State Plan, and the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant. Since her appointment in September 2008, she has worked to create a cohesive early childhood education (ECE) professional development system and to update the Desired Results Developmental Profile. She was a child development consultant in the Division's Policy Office for eight years. Prior to entering state service, she administered ECE programs for 18 years and taught mathematics at the middle school level and ECE courses at the community college level.

Gabel, Erin

Erin is the Deputy Director of the External and Governmental Affairs Office, where she is responsible for the Commission's legislative and public affairs initiatives. Prior to joining the First 5 California team, Erin was the education consultant for California State Senate President pro Tempore, Darrell Steinberg, and advised the pro Tem and Senate on a wide range of education reform issues that included preschool and early learning, kindergarten through grade 12 public education, and higher education. Before joining Senator Steinberg's policy team, Erin was the Director of Government Affairs Division at the California Department of Education. Erin was responsible for the Department's involvement in all state and federal budget and legislative processes. She served State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson as a policy advisor under different hats in the Department, Assembly, and the Senate over an eleven-year tenure. Prior to working at the state Capitol, Erin served as Deputy Chief of Staff to Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia. Erin was one of the founding staff members of the Partnership for Children and Youth as their first Children Nutrition Project Director, and now serves on its Board of Directors. Erin is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, and the proud mother of two young and active boys, August and Rhys.

**Giraudó,
Suzanne**

Suzanne is Clinical Director of the Kalmanovitz Child Development Center, Department of Pediatrics at California Pacific Medical Center. Dr. Giraudó is a pediatric psychologist working with children, adolescents and families and is active in the Medical Center's community health programs. In addition, she serves as President of the Children and Families Commission for San Francisco, is a trustee for DeMarillac Academy, on the advisory boards of Support for Families and the University of San Francisco School of Nursing and Health Professions. Dr. Giraudó has served on the boards of many non-profits including Hamilton Family Center, Home Away From Homelessness, and Catholic Charities. She has given many presentations and participated in research in the fields of education, health, child development, and pediatric mental/behavioral health. Dr. Giraudó has been honored for her contributions with the Bank of America Local Heroes Award, the California Pacific Medical Center's Presidents Award and the State Legislature 12th Assembly District Woman of the Year Award. Suzanne is a native San Franciscan and lives in the City with her husband and family.

**Goins,
Catherine M.**

Catherine has over 25 years of experience with private, nonprofit, and publicly funded early education programs. She is currently the Assistant Superintendent, Early Childhood Education, for the Placer County Office of Education (PCOE) and is an adjunct faculty member at Sierra College. Prior to coming to PCOE, she managed early childhood programs at Sacramento Employment & Training Agency Head Start, a \$47 million program serving 5,000 children. An active volunteer and advocate for children, Catherine served as President for the statewide Child Development Policy Institute, Chair of the Sierra College Early Childhood Education Advisory Committee, and Chair of the First 5 Placer Children and Families Commission. She was named Sacramento County Child Care Provider of the Year in 1999 and in 2003, and was honored as the Educator of the Year from the CSUS College of Education. Ms. Goins holds a B.A. degree in Child Development from CSUS, an M.A. in Human Development/Leadership in Education from Pacific Oaks College and an M.P.A. from the University of San Francisco.

**Gonsalves,
Jovanna**

Jovanna joined First 5 San Joaquin in 2004, where she serves as a Contracts Analyst. In that role, she has developed and provided support and oversight to several initiatives and special projects in areas such as home visitation services, faith-based partnering, community outreach, and health education. For several years, she has also maintained reliability in ECERS-R and FCCER-S and serves as an assessor for local child care and preschool sites. Additionally, she oversees strategic communications efforts, including the recent launch of an early literacy campaign.

**Gordon,
David**

David is the Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools. He directs the Sacramento County Office of Education, which plays a leadership role in delivering quality education in Sacramento County by directly serving more than 30,000 children and adults and providing financial oversight and services to more than 240,000 students in thirteen school districts. From 1995-2004, as the Elk Grove Unified School District superintendent, he helped pioneer preschool programs, as well as early intervention programs for at-risk children. He also served as Deputy State Superintendent of Public Instruction for the California Department of Education. He serves on the Sierra Health Foundation Board, the Sacramento First 5 Commission, the State of California Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission, and formerly served as Chair of the Reporting and Dissemination Committee of the National Assessment Governing Board (The Nation's Report Card). He and his wife Deborah have two children and six grandchildren.

Gray, Allison Allison has been the State Leadership Liaison for Family Voices of California Project Leadership since 2012 and serves on the Western States Genetic Services Collaborative. Her background is in training, education, and educational publishing. She is the mother of a child with special health care needs.

Guerra, Liz Liz is the Program Manager of Quality Start Los Angeles (QSLA)—LA County’s Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)—at the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE). Liz has been a teacher, program developer, grants writer, teacher trainer, coach, and education administrator serving children and families in LA County for over 25 years. She has 14 years’ experience spearheading innovative systems, tools, and protocols that have contributed to documented positive outcomes for young children and their families. She holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California and a bachelor’s in Political Science from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Guerrero, Kathleen Kathleen is the Executive Director at First 5 El Dorado. She has more than 30 years of early childhood experience in the areas of child development program administration, family engagement planning, and resource and referral. She earned her Master’s Degree in Sociology from CSU Sacramento, applying that knowledge in building an early childhood system in El Dorado County. Her work includes serving on the Boards of the Child Development Policy Institute, the California Partnership for Early Care and Education and the California Interagency Coordinating Council. Kathleen’s experience in early childhood has been enriched as the parent of two children, Seth 25 and Sarah 23.

Hansen, Mary Ann Mary Ann is Executive Director of First 5 Humboldt and a Child Development instructor at Humboldt State University. Mary Ann is a California-endorsed Transdisciplinary Infant-Family and Early Childhood Mental Health Practitioner and Reflective Practice Facilitator.

Hayslip, Whit Whit has worked in the field of early childhood education for over forty years. He is currently serving as an independent consultant on various projects throughout the country including the David and Lucile Packard Foundation Starting Smart and Strong Initiative. In 2010, Whit retired from his position as Assistant Superintendent, Early Childhood Education for the Los Angeles Unified School District where he was responsible for programs serving over 35,000 children between birth and five years of age. Whit has a Master’s Degree in Human Development with graduate training in both Child Development and Special Education. His resume includes a variety of positions, including infant program teacher, kindergarten teacher, preschool teacher in a federally funded mainstreaming model, Federal Outreach Grant Coordinator, Infant and Preschool Program Specialist, and the Director of Infant and Preschool Special Education.

He has also served as a consultant for the State of California Preschool Personnel Development Project, the Early Intervention Technical Assistance Network, the Department of Defense Dependents Schools, and as a Senior Trainer for a national staff development project. He has served on a number of local, state, and national-level advisory groups including but not limited to the California First 5 Commission Advisory Committee on Diversity, California Education Master Plan School Readiness Workgroup, California Preschool Standards Workgroup, the Professional Expert Panel for the California Child Development Division’s Curriculum Project, Los Angeles County Universal Preschool Master Plan Committee, the federal Advisory Committee on Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO), the federal Advisory Committee on Head Start Research and Evaluation, and the federal Administration for Children and Families Roundtable on Transition, Alignment, and Continuity.

**Heavilin,
Beth**

Beth is a Mental Health and Inclusion Specialist working in a partnership between the Humboldt County Office of Education and First 5 Humboldt. Beth is direct service practitioner and co-coordinates the 0 to 8 Mental Health Collaborative.

**Hentschel,
Ann**

Ann is the quality research analyst at Branagh Information Group. Ann has been in the field of early childhood education for over 30 years in a variety of roles including preschool teacher and child care director at Stanford University. Most recently, she was the director of quality assessment at the McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership. In that role she oversaw the implementation of quality assessments and training of technical assistance specialists for the QRIS initiative in Illinois. Ann is coauthor of two books; *A Great Place to Work* and *Inspiring Peak Performance* with her colleagues Paula Jorde Bloom and Jill Bella. She received her master's degree in Early Childhood Administration from National Louis University. Her passion is in developing innovative ways to support teachers and program leaders in providing high quality early learning experiences for young children.

**Hernandez,
Marc W.**

Dr. Hernandez is a Senior Research Scientist in the Academic Research Center and Director of the Early Childhood Research and Practice Collaborative at NORC at the University of Chicago. He is a developmental psychologist with expertise in cognitive development, early childhood and elementary education. He is experienced in designing and conducting experimental studies, cluster randomized trials, quasi-experiments, mixed-methods research, literature reviews, psychometric analysis for assessment and survey development, and program evaluation. His research and evaluation program focuses on identifying, developing and evaluating programs and tools designed to improve educational outcomes among disadvantaged children early in their lives. He is currently serving as Co-Principal Investigator of an Administration for Children and Families (ACF) funded contract to conduct a utilization-focused evaluation of ACF's Early Childhood Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) System. ACF's newly transformed T/TA system integrates the early childhood T/TA national and regional resources from both the Office of Head Start and Office of Child Care. He is leading the development of an innovative web-based formative assessment tool to measure parent, family and community engagement (PFCE) in partnership with the National Head Start Association. He is also leading a collaboration with the Kenneth Rainin Foundation to identify, implement, and evaluate programs designed to improve oral language, literacy, math, and social-emotional outcomes for vulnerable young children in Oakland, California. Dr. Hernandez earned a doctorate in developmental psychology from the University of Chicago.

**Herrera,
Patti**

Patti, Director, Governmental Relations, serves school districts by advocating for public policies that maintain and advance the interests of K-12 public school students, as well as providing timely information to K-12 field practitioners across the disciplines on legislative and regulatory proposals that will affect their daily work. Prior to joining SSC, Patti led the Governmental Relations Division as the Chief Governmental Relations Officer for the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools. Patti also spent more than a decade on policy development relating to public school facilities at Murdoch, Walrath & Holmes and the Coalition for Adequate School Housing, where she specialized in the State School Facility Program. Through her work in public education policy making and advocacy, Patti has worked and developed relationships with key policymakers and staff in the State Capitol and relevant state agencies. Patti graduated cum laude from University of California, Davis, with degrees in International Relations and Chinese and Russian History. Patti is pursuing her Doctorate of Education at University of California, Davis.

**Hong,
Melissa**

Melissa is the Assistant Director of Early Learning at FIRST 5 Santa Clara County. Since 2013, Melissa worked in the Research and Evaluation Department to build CLASS and ERS assessments capacity at the local and regional level. In 2015, she transitioned to programmatic work to focus on the CSPP QRIS Block Grant, Infant/Toddler QRIS Block Grant and IMPACT. Melissa coordinates QRIS efforts across the Early Learning Team, Evaluation Team, and the rating agency. She is also responsible for data management and reporting. Melissa received a B.A. in Cognitive Science from University of California, Berkeley and obtained an M.A. in Sociology and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University. Melissa holds a J.D. with a certificate in Child and Family Law, has worked as a researcher, and has also worked for Chicago Public Schools Office of Early Childhood Education.

**Hoyos,
Lorena**

Lorena graduated from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas with a Master's of Education in Health Promotion. Upon graduation, she returned home to Stockton, California. There she started her career in nutrition education as a Nutrition Assistant with the Women, Infants and Children Program. In 2008, she was hired as a Family Nutrition Educator for the University of California CalFresh Nutrition Education Program. She has been with the program for nearly eight years and has been in her current supervisory position for the last two. Lorena serves as a member of the Healthy San Joaquin Collaborative whose mission is to have member organizations work collectively to bring about individual, community, system, and environmental changes that shape nutrition and physical activity behaviors.

**Hurlbut,
Nancy**

Nancy is the Interim Dean at Cal Poly Pomona and PEACH Co-Lead Consultant, and holds a Ph.D. in Life-Span Human Development from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She has worked in the Early Childhood field in four states and two countries for over 35 years, and is presently a faculty member and the interim dean of the College of Education and Integrative Studies at Cal Poly Pomona. Nancy has served as a board member of Head Start and university center programs, been the director of a University Child Development Center, and was recognized for her Early Childhood Distance Learning productions. Nancy was one of the CSU faculty members who helped develop the initial CAP 8 courses and the ECE Competency Mapping Tool. Presently Nancy is a member of the CTC Child Development Permit Advisory Panel.

Isaacs, Toni

PEACH Program Coordinator, has a Master's degree in ECE. She has worked in ECE for over 25 years in a variety of positions including adjunct faculty member of CD at Moorpark Community College and adjunct faculty in the Master's Degree Program in ECE at CSU Northridge. Toni has worked as a Behavioral Interventionist for a pediatric service and a Center Director for a child care center. She continues to be the PEACH Program Coordinator since PEACH inception in 2011.

Jaime, Lupe In her role as Director of Early Care and Education at Fresno County Office of Education, Lupe oversees several early learning programs and initiatives, including the Child Care and Development Local Planning Council (LPC); the Early Stars Quality Rating and Improvement System; the Race to the Top – Early Challenge Grant; the California State Preschool Program Block Grant; the Teen Parent Support Program; and Early Care and Education Workforce Support programs, such as PIECES and the California Transitional Kindergarten Stipend Program. Prior to her current position, Lupe was the Deputy Director of Central Valley Children’s Services Network. In this role, she managed the Resource & Referral, Subsidized Childcare, and numerous First 5 Fresno County contracts. In addition, she served as an Infant & Toddler Specialist Trainer for WestEd, and a Child Development adjunct instructor at Willow International College. Earlier this year Lupe was appointed by Governor Brown to serve on the California Children and Families Commission. Lupe holds a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies and a Professional Clear Multiple-Subject Teaching Credential. She earned a Master's degree in Cross Cultural Education and a Child Development Director's Permit. Recently, she earned a post graduate certificate in Infant Family Mental Health from the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Joachim, Sharlene Sharlene is the Senior Writer/Training Specialist for the Western Office at Zero to Three where she joined in October 2015 as the Prenatal to Age Five Workforce Development (P-5 WFD) Project. Sharlene has a master’s degree in Public Health from the University of Washington, and a master’s degree in Early Childhood Special Education from California State University, Los Angeles. For the last five years, Sharlene has worked in applied public health research at the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities. She was part of a team supporting quality improvement initiatives that pursue improved systems of care for young children and their families. In her recent role as a quality improvement coach for a community-based initiative, she worked within a cross-disciplinary learning system that used process improvement approaches to change practice and redesign care to achieve better outcomes for children and families. Past projects at the Center included the Early Developmental Systems Initiative and Transforming Early Childhood Community Systems which used the Early Developmental Instrument to provide communities with a population-based measure of school readiness to inform local planning and improvement efforts.

Kelley-Knutsen, Melissa Since joining Teachstone in 2013, Melissa has supported teachers with one-on-one coaching through the MyTeachingPartner (MTP) program and provided CLASS observation and coaching trainings. Now, as the Regional Director for states within the West Coast, Melissa’s passion, knowledge, and dedication to the field supports large-scale CLASS implementations that empower teachers and supporting staff to help students succeed academically and emotionally.

**Kennedy,
Gail**

Gail is a community manager and data specialist for the ACEs Connection Network. She has a Master's in Public Health (MPH) from Columbia University, where she focused on socio-medical sciences, health promotion, and disease prevention. For nearly 20 years, she worked at the University of California, San Francisco, where she set up and managed international HIV collaborative efforts, assisting countries to collect and use data to respond to the needs of their communities. Gail's public health interests began while working as an advocate in a child abuse prevention and rape crisis center before her MPH training. Her work with ACEs and resiliency research is like coming back to her roots, she says. Gail joined ACEs Connection Network in May 2015. She brings to this community her passion for community engagement and facilitation, and her appreciation of the power of getting data into the hands of communities. She is helping think about ways to gather data to help us understand the impact we are having as our network grows, and to help groups access ACE and other relevant data to inform the urgency of an ACEs response. She is developing tools that she hopes will help groups monitor their progress and identify priority areas of focus for outreach. She is also helping communities, organizations, and initiatives in Northern and Central California start groups on ACEs Connection. She has helped launch the California Essentials for Childhood Initiative, and the Sacramento County ACEs Connection groups. Others in the pipeline include Napa and El Dorado counties.

**Kenney,
Moira**

Moira Kenney is the Executive Director of the First 5 Association of California, the membership organization for the 58 county commissions funded by Proposition 10 to support improved services for children ages 0-5 and their families. In her role as the Executive Director, she leads the Association's efforts to provide a visible statewide presence of the First 5 movement, supports effective stewardship of the Proposition 10 resources, and represents the county commissions in statewide policy and advocacy efforts. Previously, she served for four years as the Executive Director of First 5 San Francisco, where she was instrumental in launching the city's Preschool For All program and in growing the Commission within the county's system of care. Prior to her work with First 5, Ms. Kenney was the Research Director at the Institute for Urban and Regional Development at the University of California, Berkeley, where she oversaw a number of innovative university-community partnerships. Her background is in public policy and community development, and she has a Ph.D. and Master's degree in Urban Planning from UCLA and a bachelor's degree from Harvard University.

**King,
Elizabeth K.**

Elizabeth is a Research and Policy Associate at the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment at U.C. Berkeley. Elizabeth's work focuses on research and policy efforts that promote optimal learning and work environments in early childhood education classrooms. Her research specializations include teachers' professional development, work environments, and compensation, and the effects of these concepts on young children's learning and development. Elizabeth holds a Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

**Klintong,
Jasmine**

Jasmine received her Bachelor's Degree in Behavioral Science from California State Polytechnic University in Pomona and her Master's Degree in Human Development from Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena. For the past ten years, Jasmine has worked towards reducing the epidemic of overweight and obesity in young children and their families. She coordinated the City of Duarte's Healthy Choice Project for six years prior to her current role as Program Analyst for a multi-million Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Initiative under the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Jasmine's philosophy is that nothing is impossible as the very word itself says, "I'm possible!" In her free time, Jasmine enjoys creating art, cooking, and being active with her fiancé and their 2 dogs.

Kubiak, Jena

Jena works for San Diego County Office of Education as a Coordinator for the First 5 San Diego Quality Preschool Initiative. She has experience working within Head Start and in the public school setting.

**Kubinec,
Jannelle**

Jannelle is a nationally recognized expert on the effective use of resources to support district and school improvement. She currently is working on behalf of the California State Board of Education to support the design and implementation of new policies and practices to implement California's Local Control Funding Form. She has been involved in state-level education finance reviews and improvement projects in Colorado, Hawaii, and Nevada as well as review and support of school district finance projects throughout California. In addition, as Program Director of the Comprehensive School Assistance Program at WestEd, she leads the federally-funded California Comprehensive Center, which is assisting the California Department of Education to prepare for transition related to the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Kurtz, Julie

Julie is a Regional Director with the Center for Family & Child Studies at WestEd. She formerly served as the Executive Director of the YMCA. Julie oversees the California Collaborative on Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CA CSEFEL) Teaching Pyramid professional development efforts under WestEd's MAP to Inclusion and Belonging. Prior to her leadership role at the YMCA, Kurtz was the Deputy Director at First 5 Santa Clara and at Kidango, a nonprofit child development agency providing quality care and education in nine Bay Area (CA) cities to over 2,500 children daily. She was one of the founders of the Santa Clara Infant Family Early Childhood Mental Health Certificate Program, an intensive 10-month training program leading to endorsement for the California State Core Competencies. Julie also started an early childhood mental health services contract in California's Alameda and Santa Clara counties, providing in-home mental health services to Alameda and Santa Clara counties, providing in-home mental health services to children ages 0-5 and their families. She is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, operating a part-time private practice. In addition to providing counseling, she also travels to organizations providing the Meyer's Briggs Type Indicator tool for staff and leadership teams. In 2012, Kurtz was named 100 Influential Woman of Silicon Valley by the Silicon Valley/San Jose Business Journal. She has raised two boys who are now 18 and 19 years old.

**Kyger,
Mariel**

Mariel is a Research Analyst II at Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP). Along with Dr. Rosa Valdés, she is directing a word gap intervention study, in which parents of toddlers and preschoolers receive early language and literacy resources including LAUP's "Take Time. Talk!" language tool. "Take Time. Talk!" was created as part of LAUP's Clinton Global Initiative commitment, and is designed to help parents and caregivers engage their children in meaningful conversations during daily routines. Mariel graduated from UCLA with a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology; her primary interests include early language development and the effects of parental input.

Lane, Teri

Teri has been the Executive Director of First 5 Calaveras since April 2014. Prior to coming to Calaveras County, she was a Center Director in San Rafael and Director at ASI Children's Center at CSU, Sacramento. Ms. Lane is the proud mother of a daughter.

**Lempert,
Ted**

Ted is the President of Children Now, a national research and advocacy organization based in Oakland. He is also a Lecturer in the Political Science Department at UC Berkeley. Previously, Mr. Lempert was the founding CEO of EdVoice, a California education reform organization. He was a California State Assemblymember representing San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties from 1996 to 2000 and 1988 to 1992. He served as chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee and co-chair of the Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan for Education. He had more than 75 bills signed by Governors Deukmejian, Wilson and Davis, including major laws in the areas of education, health care, children and families, tax policy and the environment. Mr. Lempert also served on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, where he was President of the Board in 1995. He was the founder of the County's Youth Commission and chaired the Task Force on Violence Against Women. Prior to holding public office, Mr. Lempert was special counsel and an associate for the law firm of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter and Hampton in San Francisco. Mr. Lempert received the "Al Rodda Lifetime Service Award" from the California School Boards Association; was named "Legislator of the Year" by numerous leading education groups, including the National Association of Educational Service Agencies, the California Association of School Administrators, California Community College Faculty and the UC and CSU Students Associations; was recognized five times with the "High-Tech Legislator of the Year" award from the American Electronics Association. He graduated from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and earned his law degree from Stanford University. He, his wife Nicole, and their three daughters live in San Carlos.

Li, Judy

Judy is Co-Director, Joint Venture Health Program. She co-founded Joint Venture Health with Dr. Shortell in August 2013. She brings a unique combination of health services administration, advocacy and leadership experience to advance its mission. As Chief Administrative Officer of St. Luke's, she directed this 100-year-old San Francisco medical institution with a 229-bed hospital and an emergency room serving more than 25,000 patients annually. She restructured its day-to-day operations, reformed medical leadership, reduced operating losses by 30% in two years, and secured St. Luke's long-term future as a part of Sutter CPMC. Judy received her undergraduate degree from New York University, her Master in Business Administration from the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley, and her Doctor of Public Health in Health Policy and Management at the School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley. Most recently, serving as the Region Vice-President for Sutter West Bay, she led their public affairs, communication and community health innovation efforts. In this role, she mounted a successful five-year extensive campaign to garner community support and regulatory approvals for a \$2.7 billion program. Its goal is to rebuild Sutter's four hospitals into a modern health-care delivery system for nearly 30% of San Francisco's patients. Dr. Li serves on the Board of the San Francisco Food Bank.

Liu, Katrina

Katrina is the lead pediatrician for North East Medical Services, the largest private Federally-licensed Community Health Center in San Francisco, serving close to 10,000 low-income children. Dr. Liu has been serving this community of patients for 17 years and believes strongly in prevention and education. To that end, she champions the development of Joint Venture Health at NEMS so that parents are engaged early in child development and providers have a system to support proactively the needs of children and their families. Dr. Liu received her medical education at Boston University School of Medicine and her training at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. She is a native San Franciscan, and lives in the city with her family.

Long, Dayna

Dayna is a pediatrician at the University of California San Francisco Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland. Her main clinical work is in primary care and asthma clinic. She is the Director of Social Determinants of Health Initiatives at the Center for Community Health and Engagement (CCHE). Dayna is the co-founder and Medical Director of the Family Information and Navigation Desk (FIND). The goal of FIND is to address the social and environmental factors that profoundly impact health outcomes. She is the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland Spokeswoman for the Too Small to Fail: Talk, Read, Sing Initiative. She is an adviser for the White House Bridging the Word Gap Incentive Prize challenge and part of the national Bridging the Word Gap Research Network. Her research interests include health disparities, social determinants of health, community health, and asthma. She is the site Principal Investigator for the National Institute of Health (NIH) funded AsthmaNet trials. Currently, her asthma research projects are the Best African American Response to Asthma Drugs (BARD) and the hot spotting project, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Protocol to Assess Environmental Effects on Drug Response for AsthmaNet Studies. As a steering committee member of First 5 Alameda County Help Me Grow program, Dr. Long advocates for children. In 2015, she was accepted into the Harvard Macy's Institute Leading Innovations in Health Care Cohort. Dr. Long is the proud mother of 3 boys. Her hobbies include eating good food, hiking, biking, reading and spending time with family and friends.

**Maben,
Camille**

Camille is the Executive Director of First 5 California. She is responsible for staffing the California Children and Families Commission, in addition to directing the work of the agency and its staff. Through her leadership, First 5 California is implementing several evidence-based and results-driven Signature Programs targeted to children, parents, and teachers that focus on quality. Prior to her appointment at First 5 California, Camille served as the Division Director of the Child Development Division at the California Department of Education (CDE). Part of her responsibilities in that role included providing leadership and oversight to over 700 early care and education contractors with a \$1.7-billion-dollar budget. She most recently served as Co-Chair of the State Advisory Council on Early Learning and Care, and also helped win and implement the \$52.6 million federal Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant. She was previously appointed by the Governor to serve as Chief of Staff for the Office of the Secretary of Education. In earlier work at CDE, Camille served as Division Director of the School and District Accountability Division. Her division included the No Child Left Behind Office, oversight of the Categorical Program Monitoring process, the Title I Policy and Partnerships Unit, and the English Learner Accountability Unit. Camille also served as Senior Advisor to former State Superintendent Delaine Eastin and has worked as a consultant to the Assembly Education Committee. Camille currently serves as a school board member for the Rocklin Unified School District. She has served on the Rocklin Board for over 20 years.

**Machado,
Nina**

Nina has been the Executive Director of First 5 Amador since 2001. Prior to joining First 5, she worked with Amador County Public Health and Health Education focusing on policies and advocacy related to tobacco education and prevention. She is a founding board member for a local non-profit that provides transportation and support services to cancer patients and their families. She has two grown children and three fabulous grandchildren.

**Maguire-
Fong, Mary
Jane**

Mary Jane is professor of early childhood education at American River College in Sacramento. She has been a preschool teacher, an infant center director, and an administrator of early childhood programs serving families in the migrant farm worker community. Her work is inspired by the philosophy of teaching used in the birth to 5 programs in the city of Reggio Emilia, Italy. She is the author of the 2015 Teachers College Press book *Teaching and Learning with Infants and Toddlers: Where Meaning Making Begins*. She serves as faculty for the Program for Infant Toddler Care and holds an Infant-Parent Mental Health Certificate from the University of Massachusetts.

Mah, Ronald

Ronald is a Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist, has a private practice, is a credentialed elementary and secondary teacher, owner of a preschool, author/presenter on DVDs on children's behavior, books for teachers on child behavior and discipline with Corwin Press, and self-published e-books on danger assessment and couple therapy, consultant to social services programs. He served on the Board of Directors of the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists and the California Kindergarten Association. He's also been a consultant for a confidential online communication technology business.

**Maldonado,
Olga**

Olga is a Family Resource Specialist at Support for Families in San Francisco. Prior to her role as Family Resource Specialist, she had participated and volunteered at the agency in various trainings and programs, including Family Voices of CA Project Leadership and the Parent Mentor Program. She has two daughters with special needs. Her eldest daughter (16 years old) has battled with a mental illness since the age of 11 while her youngest daughter (7 years old) has right hemiparesis, a mild form of CP. She is nonverbal, uses modified sign language, and a speech generating device for communication.

Mallo, Nelly

Nelly has over 16 years of experience with PHFE WIC research and projects. She currently manages the operations for the Little by Little (LBL) School Readiness Program. In this role, she developed the LBL Program training and trained over 100 front line WIC staff from seven different local agency WIC programs to deliver LBL. In addition to her work managing the LBL Program, Nelly has conducted trainings for WIC and other service agencies to provide brief interventions with pregnant women at risk of consuming alcohol while pregnant, is a member of the PHFE WIC Social Media Outreach team and is a Spanish translator for PHFE WIC.

**Marquez,
Margaux**

Margaux has over 16 years of experience working in the early childhood field. She is currently employed as a Behavior Support Specialist for the YMCA Childcare Resource Service. She provides services to children ages 0-5, their teachers and parents to promote children's social and emotional development and offer interventions for challenging behaviors. After receiving her Bachelor's degree in Child Development, she began her career as an early childhood teacher where she worked with families and colleagues to meet the individual emotional, developmental and behavioral needs of children in her care. She continued her career in the child development field as an AmeriCorps member providing resources and support to child care providers. One of the highlights of her career was directing training projects for the YMCA Childcare Resource Service where she had the opportunity to facilitate workshops on numerous early child and education topics to family and center-based child care providers. While gaining her Masters in Social Work degree she had the opportunity to enhance her clinical assessment skills and provide therapeutic interventions to children with developmental and behavioral challenges. When working as a Children's Social Worker for the Department of Children and Family Services, one of her strengths was cultivating strong partnerships with families and other service professionals. She is passionate about working with families and her varied experiences have provided her with valuable insight and knowledge regarding strategies to promote the well-being of children and families.

**Marshall,
Shama**

Shama is an Inclusion Training Specialist with the Inclusion Collaborative at the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE). She received her B.S from Florida Atlantic University and her M.A in Early Childhood Special Education at Santa Clara University before earning her Administrative Credential in Educational Leadership through the SCCOE Education credentialing program. Shama is a faculty member and mentor at the Education Preparation for Inclusive Classrooms (EPIC) credentialing program and serves as an adjunct faculty member at San Jose City College in their Family and Consumer Studies Department. She also has the wonderful opportunity to work with the Supporting Inclusive Practices (SIP) Grant program from the California Department of Education. As a SIP grant facilitator Shama works with districts across central and northern California to identify barriers to inclusion and develop programs that support inclusive practices such as multi-tiered systems of support, Response to Intervention, and Universal Design for Learning. Through her work at the Inclusion Collaborative Shama is able to work with individual students, families and teachers across grade levels who are seeking support for working with challenging behaviors.

**Martin,
Anna**

Anna has been bringing nutrition and healthy lifestyle education to the people of San Joaquin County for over 20 years. She earned a Master's degree in Community Nutrition at California State University, Sacramento. Anna has devoted the last 22 years in San Joaquin County as an educator and researcher with the University of California Cooperative Extension. Anna's commitment to improving the health and well-being of families in San Joaquin County has led to her active involvement with local community groups such as the Obesity and Chronic Disease Prevention Taskforce, the Healthy San Joaquin Collaborative and the Hunger Taskforce of San Joaquin County. Partnering with other health leaders, she seeks to mobilize and build community capacity to address factors related to the development of obesity and chronic diseases. Anna connects the San Joaquin County community to University of California resources. She supervises two federal programs—the University of California CalFresh Nutrition Education Program and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program. Together with her team of Family Nutrition Educators, she works daily to motivate children and parents to eat healthy, to increase their physical activity, and to advocate for environments that support these behaviors.

Martin, Cally

Cally has worked in the field of behavioral mental/behavioral health care for over 17 years. She is currently the Deputy Director at First 5 Contra Costa overseeing the Children and Families Commission's three program initiatives: Early Childhood Education, Early Intervention, and Family Support. Additionally, Cally serves on the Trauma Awareness and Resilience Leadership collaborative addressing children's exposure to adverse childhood experiences and the Early Childhood Leadership Alliance, promoting universal developmental screening and systems integration for children with special needs – this body serves as an advisory group to the Help Me Grow system. Until recently, she served as Chair of the Healthy and Active Before 5 collaborative working to reduce/prevent obesity in young children. In addition to her early childhood efforts, Cally has worked in the fields of Domestic/Sexual Violence, HIV/AIDS, Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Treatment, and Welfare to Work. Prior to her position at First 5, Cally served as Deputy Director at Community Violence Solutions, and as Director of Programs and Services at New Connections. She earned a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology from John F. Kennedy University and was honored by their Graduate Psychology department as Alumna of the Year.

Mather-Kalluri, Monica

Dr. Mathur-Kalluri is an Early Childhood Development Specialist at WestEd's Center for Prevention and Early Intervention. Her work focuses on personnel development and research activities to improve the quality of services provided to infants, toddlers, and their families in California. She coordinates the curriculum for California's Comprehensive System for Personnel Development for Part C and is involved in the California Center for Infant-Family, Early Childhood Mental Health. She is an occupational therapist and completed her doctoral work in creating quality standards to identify and include children with disabilities in child-care settings. She has worked in a variety of pediatric and adult settings, supervised occupational therapy staff clinically, and taught at USC. She continues to present at local and national conferences in the areas of routines-based interviews, Part C, online learning, evidence-based practice, sensory integration, and professional development systems. She is the only certified Routines-Based Interview trainer in California. She is the founding chair of the Academy of Zero to Three Fellows.

Mathies, Deanna

Deanna has worked in education for 30 years. She taught Special Education for eight years and spent 13 years teaching first through third grades. Deanna was also a literacy coach for teachers teaching four through six grades. She worked as a Teacher on Special Assignment creating and delivering professional learning for preschool through high school teachers. For the last five years Deanna has overseen Early Learning for Fresno Unified School District (FUSD). While serving as the Manager of Early Learning Deanna implemented a continuum of learning in FUSD's Early Learning programs. She has helped create and lead an expanded coaching team and Professional Learning Communities in early childhood settings. Deanna has been part of expanding services to all children under five in Fresno. Currently she is Director of the Fresno County First 5 Birth Through Third Grade grant for FUSD, the David and Lucile Packard Starting Smart and Strong Initiative, and FUSD's Early Learning department. She also serves as a board member for the Fresno County Economic Opportunity Commission. Deanna has a M.A. in Education Administration and Supervision, a Cross-Cultural Language and Academic Development (CLAD) certificate, a Special Education Credential, and a Multiple Subjects Teaching Credential with an emphasis in Early Childhood.

Mayman, Jennifer

Jennifer coordinates the implementation of the rating system within Santa Clara County's QRIS. Prior to joining WestEd E3 Institute, she worked for the Finance Project in Washington DC, where she provided technical assistance to Head Start grantees on fiscal and program management. Jennifer has worked in early childhood education budget and administration for the City of New York and as an Even Start Director in Oakland. She began her career in education as a 1998 Teach for America Corps member in the Mississippi Delta. Mayman holds a B.A. degree in History and a Master's Degree in public policy, from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

McCroskey, Jacquelyn

Jacquelyn is the John Milner Professor of Child Welfare and Co-Director of the Children's Data Network at the USC School of Social Work. She focuses on structure, financing, and performance improvement in and across the child welfare, juvenile justice, and early care and education (ECE) systems in Los Angeles County. Recent scholarly interests include prevention of child maltreatment, improving access to ECE services for at-risk families, and cross-system collaboration. Jacquelyn currently serves on the First 5 Los Angeles County Commission and the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development. In 2003, the California Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers named her the California Social Worker of the Year.

**McGrath,
Scott**

Scott has been the Supervisor for the Research and Evaluation and Community Engagement units of First 5 San Bernardino since 2010. He is tasked with overseeing a team that collects, tracks, and analyzes data trends to inform Commission decisions regarding funding with regard to demographics, agency capacity, community needs, and availability of services. Currently, First 5 San Bernardino contracts with over fifty agencies to provide services to children ages 0-5 and their families. Scott also ensures that contractors are compliant with the terms of their contracts and are producing the outcomes sought by the Commission. Prior to his arrival at First 5, Scott had worked in various roles with children living in or exiting from the child welfare system, most recently with Casey Family Programs in Los Angeles County.

**McGregor,
Samar**

Samar is a Senior Nutritionist at the Public Health Foundation Enterprises WIC Program (PHFE-WIC). Samar has been with PHFE-WIC since 1987 and has been in charge of various WIC related special projects focusing on nutrition education, obesity prevention, early literacy and advocacy. Samar is the Project Director for the Little by Little School Readiness Program, an evidence-based early literacy program. Samar is currently the California WIC Association (CWA) Board President.

**McMahan,
Tanya**

Tanya is the Child Care Services Manager for Child Development Resources (CDR) of Ventura County. Currently, her work focus is on Resource & Referral programs, the Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP), State Subsidized Childcare and Early Head Start Partnership programs at CDR. She has served on numerous committees and boards, including past chair of Ventura Local Planning Council, QRIS Leadership & Quality committees and currently she is a board member on the California Resource & Referral Network and Regional Vice President for the R&R Southern Region. Tanya has worked in the early care and education field for over 40 years. Her experience includes state/federally funded, and non-funded programs serving in the capacity of child care center executive director, director, assistant director, site director, teacher, and assistant teacher for families with young children including working with the special needs populations. Tanya is a graduate from the California State University at Northridge. Tanya has two adult children and three beautiful grandchildren.

**Moiduddin,
Emily**

Emily is an associate director and senior researcher at Mathematica Policy Research. Her work focuses on understanding factors within and external to early childhood programs that promote classroom quality, with a particular focus on the role of professional development for teachers and caregivers. She is currently directing a project for the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, focused on defining the core features of coaching, and documenting the ways in which those features are implemented, combined, and adapted in response to teacher needs, implementation drivers, and context. For First 5 Los Angeles (F5LA), she directed the Universal Preschool Child Outcomes Study (UPCOS), a multi-year, mixed methods evaluation of Los Angeles Universal Preschool programs. She also directed F5LA LA Advance study, an impact and implementation evaluation of five professional development programs for early educators from center-, school-, and home-based settings.

**Monahan,
Eileen**

Eileen is the Early Care and Education manager for First 5 Santa Barbara County and for 15 years has led efforts to increase child care capacity and quality, including Santa Barbara County's QRIS system, with a stellar team of ECE colleagues. She has over 35 years' experience in the field of early care and education, including time spent as staff and administrator of programs for children ages 2 to 15. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Developmental Psychology from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and is also trained and experienced in grant writing, land use planning, child care facilities design, public policy, and work-life policies. Eileen lives in Goleta, California, and keeps herself grounded by spending time with her husband, four children, and four adorable grandchildren.

**Murphy,
Carrie**

Carrie joined Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) in 2006, and expanded early childhood programming to create the Early Childhood Programs Department in 2009. As the Director of Early Childhood Programs, Carrie oversees multiple projects all focused on improving access to high quality early learning experiences. Carrie has collaborated with early childhood leaders to guide the implementation of federal, state, and local quality initiatives including: Preschool for All, Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge Grant, The Early Learning Opportunities Act, Child Signature Programs, CARES, AB 212, QRIS, Local Planning Council, and VCOE's Transitional Kindergarten Learning Institute. Carrie has a Master's Degree in Human Development from Pacific Oaks College and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Arizona.

**Murphy,
Krista**

Krista leads the Quality Stars QRIS, which is a project of Quality Start OC through the Orange County Department of Education. Krista is an NAEYC Governing Board member, and an advocate for aligning systems to support the early learning profession, children, and families, so that all children have access to high quality, play-based early learning experiences. She has a master's degree in Education.

**Nelson,
Christine T.**

Christine is the Chief of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) WIC Division, serving since September 2014. She had previously served as Assistant Deputy Director of the CDPH Center for Family Health since 2012, and the Interim Chief of the WIC Division from 2012 to 2013. Prior to joining the Center for Family Health, Chris worked in other CDPH programs since 1994, including the Office of AIDS and STD Control Branch.

**Neville-
Morgan,
Sarah**

As the Deputy Director of the Program Management Division at First 5 California, Sarah focuses on using research and science to influence early learning and healthy development policy and program development as well as continuous quality improvement. From December 2011 – September 2013, Sarah worked in the Policy Office in the Child Development Division at the California Department of Education to help lead the implementation of California's Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant and work on early learning policy. Prior to that, she served as the Deputy Executive Director for the California Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC). While there, she launched projects with strategies for increasing the number of children ready for kindergarten and helped with California's RTT-ELC application. Prior to joining the ELAC, Sarah was with First 5 California for over 10 years. As Deputy Director of Program Management, she oversaw approximately 20 statewide early learning and healthy development programs. She holds a B.A. in Psychology from Earlham College and a M.S. in Child Development from the University of California, Davis (UCD). Sarah started her career at UCD's Center for Child and Family Studies as an Academic Child Development Specialist. In that role, she directed three full-inclusion preschool programs while specializing in early mental health. She also worked at a child care resource and referral agency where she conducted home visits with family child care providers and participated as an evaluator of a statewide training program. Sarah also spent time as adjunct faculty for a Foster Care Education Program and as a Program for Infant/Toddler Care trainer consulting with the Yolo County Teen Parent Centers and providing on-site coaching and training.

**Nguyen,
Angelina**

Angie has 20 years of experience in the nonprofit/public sector and joined the Fresno Housing Authority in November 2009 to oversee the agency's Homeless Initiatives. The Fresno Housing Authority serves over 50,000 residents in the City and County of Fresno and is the fifth largest housing authority in California. In 2013, Angie became the Senior Manager of Resident Services to oversee the coordination and expansion of services within all agency housing programs and growing affordable housing portfolio. Today, as the Director of Strategic Initiatives and Housing Programs, her responsibilities have expanded to ensure the agency aligns its efforts, policies, and partnerships with local and national best practices that promote Quality Housing, Engaged Residents, and Vibrant Communities. She is actively engaged in local, state, and federal initiatives such as the Birth thru 3rd Grade, Grade Level Reading, Starting Smart and Strong, and various initiatives related to addressing homelessness. Angie is also an Executive Board member of the Fresno Housing Education Corps and the Fresno Madera Continuum of Care.

**Nigrelli,
Christina**

Christina is the Senior Director of Programs for the Western Office at Zero to Three and has worked in the early care and education field for over 25 years. She has extensive experience in local and statewide workforce development including teaching higher education in Child Development and Family Studies as well as Early Childhood. Christina began her career as an Infant and Toddler Specialist for a privately funded child care program in Irvine, CA. As Senior Director of Programs, Christina has helped to oversee the Prenatal to Age Five Cross Sector Core Competencies Project, parent engagement, and policy and advocacy activities for the Western Office. She received a B.A. in Child Development and Family Studies as well as an M.A. in Early Childhood Education from California State University, Long Beach and an Ed. S. in Early Childhood Education from Walden University.

Norman, Hannah Hannah serves as the Director of Strategic Initiatives for First 5 Fresno County where she has worked since 2009. Hannah earned her Bachelor's degree in Family and Consumer Sciences with a minor in Mass Communications Journalism from California State University, Fresno, and is involved in early care and education efforts throughout the county. She currently serves on the steering committee for Fresno County's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), known as Fresno County Early Stars, is a member of the Fresno County Child Care and Development Local Planning Council, and supported First 5 Fresno County and Fresno County Office of Education to develop and launch the Lighthouse for Children Child Development Center serving infant, toddler, and preschool-aged children of diverse socioeconomic backgrounds.

O'Connor, Helen Helen is a Health Program Analyst with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Division of Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health. Helen has been with the LA County Department of Public Health since 2012, previously as the Breastfeeding Policy Analyst and now working primarily as the program coordinator for Choose Health LA Child Care. Helen has a Master of Science in Public Health from the University of Aix-Marseille in France.

Orliss, Micah Dr. Orliss is a licensed psychologist at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and member of the Project HEAL faculty. Project HEAL is a trauma-focused treatment program, designed to provide therapy for children and families exposed to traumatic events. Much of his work involves children in the foster care system. He regularly conducts evaluations and assessments of foster children and their families in order to identify needs and resources that can assist them in overcoming their current challenges and eventually reunifying. Dr. Orliss also performs individual and family therapy for children with trauma histories, leads weekly group therapy sessions, and provides supervision and training to interns and fellows. He is completing his certification as a mentor for the Incredible Years Small Group Dina program, an evidenced-based group treatment used nationally and internationally, for children with social and behavioral problems. He has worked with at-risk children and families for over fourteen years in numerous settings, including residential treatment centers, juvenile halls, community mental health centers, and schools.

Osborne, Tamarra Tamarra is an Early Childhood Content Expert for WestEd's Desired Results Training infants, toddlers and preschoolers in state funded programs. She directed nonprofit childcare centers for 10 years, and served as a Professional Growth Advisor for the Child Development Training Consortium. Tamarra earned a B.A. degree in Early Childhood Education at California State University of Sacramento and an M.S in Education with an Early Childhood Curriculum option from California State University, East Bay.

Park, Jeanie Jeanie is the Program Coordinator for Choose Health LA Child Care at the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles. She earned her Master's in Public Health from the University of Southern California, with an emphasis in Health Education and Promotion and Global Health. Among her scientific interests are community-based participatory research and community mobilization.

**Patterson,
Briana**

Briana is an occupational therapist and the mother of two entertaining girls, ages 5 and 2. She lives with her husband and children in Chico, California. Briana enjoys library story times, farmers markets, cooking allergen free food and finding roly pollies with her daughters. She has worked with children with developmental delays as well as adults who have experienced stroke, spinal cord injury or orthopedic surgery. For the past year and a half Briana has been working with Mothers Strong, advocating for increased support and services for mothers experiencing postpartum mood disorders. Briana has a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Cal Poly and a Master of Occupational Therapy from Samuel Merritt College.

**Peralta,
Marsha**

Marsha is a professor of early childhood education at Folsom Lake College and previously at Pacific Oaks College. She holds a B.A. degree in Psychology from CSU, Sacramento, an M.A. in Human Development from Pacific Oaks College, and an Infant-Parent Mental Health Certificate from the University of Massachusetts. Prior to teaching she worked with families of vulnerable infants and toddlers as an educator and integrative health consultant, drawing on extensive training in somatic psychology, trauma resolution, interpersonal neurobiology, and pre- and perinatal psychology. She is deeply committed to improving lifelong health outcomes through supporting optimal physiological development from preconception through the first three years.

**Perezchica,
Mercedes**

Mercedes joined First 5 LA in 2011 and currently serves as Program Officer for the Program Development Department. Mercedes has developed and implemented several of First 5 LA's public health and early prevention programs. She currently works with grantees, community organizations and County partners on the following projects: Help Me Grow Los Angeles, Early Childhood Linkages to Wellness school based health program, and the Little by Little School Readiness program. Prior to joining First 5 LA, Mercedes worked in the non-profit sector and managed various programs focused on capacity building, student services, and policy advocacy. She earned her MPH in Community Health Sciences from UCLA's Fielding School of Public Health and her BA degree from Brown University.

**Philipp,
George C.**

George, a Senior Program Associate for the WestEd E3 Institute, works on early educator professional development initiatives locally, regionally, and statewide. George coordinates E3 Institute's major initiative, Santa Clara County's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). In this role he facilitated the development of a countywide Coaching Collaborative and Video Coaching Project in Santa Clara County. George serves on California's Transforming the Workforce Birth to Age 8 Work Group, Santa Clara County Joint Workforce Development Committee, the California Department of Education Workforce Data Systems Workforce Registry Advisory Board, and facilitates the Early Childhood Professional Development and Education Collaborative. He is a member of the Santa Clara County Local Early Childhood Planning Council (LPC) and represents the early childhood community as a Commissioner for First 5 Santa Clara County. Prior to joining WestEd, George was a Program Services Administrator for First 5 Alameda County.

**Pillado,
Olivia**

Olivia is a Research Manager with the Child Care Resource Center, a large Resource and Referral agency serving North Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties. Olivia has led the evaluation for various county-wide programs in Los Angeles, including the Gateways for Early Educators Program, and has played leadership roles in the evaluation and program development for other workforce development and quality improvement programs including QRIS, obesity prevention, and disaster preparedness and pandemic awareness in child care settings. Currently she is part of the evaluation team for Choose Health LA Child Care. Olivia earned a Master of Arts in Psychology from U.C. Riverside.

**Ponivas,
Angela**

Angela is currently the Bureau Chief of the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP). She has been in the OCAP for two years, working at a systems level on behalf of children and families. Prior to working for the state, Angela was an Executive Director of a Family Resource Center and Counseling Center in Placer County for seven years. In addition to nonprofit leadership, Angela has provided direct service in child welfare working in various areas of the continuum of care including Family Maintenance, Court Investigations, and has worked for a Foster Family Agency, matching families and children, stabilizing placements and conducting adoption home assessments. Also, Angela started a nonprofit called "Love Little Children," a food program for in-home daycare providers in Sacramento. Angela has an undergraduate degree in Business Administration and a Graduate Degree in Social Work. She has enjoyed the variety of work within the field of Social Work, applying both her business skills and her social work skills. Angela lives in Sacramento County with her husband, Scott, and her 4-year-old adopted son, Jonah.

**Poulsen,
Marie Kanne**

Marie is a licensed psychologist and Professor of Pediatrics, USC Keck School of Medicine. She has worked with young children and their families for over 30 years, including consultation with state developmental services, child care and preschools, as well as regional and national Head Start programs. She has a Governor's appointment to the California Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Intervention where she serves as Chair of the Executive Committee and Chair of the Qualified Personnel Committee. Dr. Poulsen has been a principal investigator or co-investigator of several research projects relating to children with special health care needs. In recognition of clinical, programmatic and research expertise, the California Department of Education and the California Department of Developmental Services included her in the development of two seminal state documents addressing best practices for designing and delivering effective programs for individuals with autistic spectrum disorders (CDE, 1997) and for the development of inter-organizational collaboration to better serve children with autism and their families (DDS, 2008). She was given an award of recognition by the California Department of Education and the California Department of Developmental Spectrum Disorder. Dr. Poulsen was an invited participant at the 1999 White House Conference on Mental Health. Services in appreciation of her outstanding leadership concerning students with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Dr. Poulsen was an invited participant at the 1999 White House Conference on Mental Health.

**Prusso,
Laurie**

Laurie is a retired Professor of Child Development, focusing on foundational emotional and social development in young children and all human beings as well as the effects of trauma on children and families. She has provided consulting services to Head Start and state-funded programs, Local Planning Councils, First 5 Counties, CARES, school-age programs, and has been a popular presenter at CAEYC, NAEYC, and other conferences and retreats. Laurie earned her B.A. in Human Development and a M.A. in Education with an emphasis in Early Childhood from California State University. She has worked with children and adult learners in a variety of settings. In addition, Laurie has been a family childcare provider, a preschool teacher, and director. She is a Certified Positive Discipline® Trainer and Parent Educator, and presents workshops and trainings related to effective and respectful discipline, adult supervision and staff teams, with emotional health and social development in mind. As a consultant with WestEd, Laurie has been a trainer with the CSEFEL project.

Puls, Petra

Petra is the Director of Program and Evaluation at First 5 Ventura County, where she is responsible for managing the implementation of the Commission's Strategic Plan. In this role, she helps shape program design and practices in the areas of early education, family support and health, facilitates integration of funded programs, and monitors program outcomes. Petra was instrumental in the development of the Commission's Quality Rating and Improvement Initiative, and serves as a liaison to First 5 California and the California Department of Education for Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant. Petra's entire career has focused on improving the lives of children, their families and the communities they live in. Prior to joining First 5 Ventura County in 2003, she coordinated the Local Planning Council, and held positions as an after school program coordinator and preschool teacher. She earned a degree in Education from the Federal Academy of Education in Vienna, Austria, a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Azusa Pacific University, and a Master of Public Administration from Arkansas State University.

**Quick,
Heather**

Heather is a Managing Researcher in Early Childhood Development and Education at the American Institutes for Research (AIR) and has nearly 20 years of experience leading research and evaluation studies of early care and education program quality, school readiness, and family engagement. She is an expert on California early childhood policy and programs and currently leads the independent evaluation of California's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). Dr. Quick is also leading a statewide study of Transitional Kindergarten (TK) in California, which examines the impacts of the program on children's readiness for kindergarten and seeks to identify characteristics of TK that are most supportive of positive learning outcomes. Results from this study have informed important policy decisions around early education programming in the state. Dr. Quick received her Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies from Cornell University.

**Ramler,
Malia**

Malia, MSW/MPH, is a Senior Administrator at First 5 Alameda County where she manages teams working in early childhood quality improvement, training, and community grant making. She co-facilitates the Alameda County collaborative that implements Quality Counts – the local QRIS and lead agency for Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge, CSPP and Infant Toddler Block Grants, and IMPACT.

Rao, Sheela Sheela is an assistant professor of pediatrics at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) and the Keck School of Medicine. She has taught pediatric residents at all levels of training in both inpatient and outpatient clinical settings since joining the faculty at USC in 2006. Since beginning her career at CHLA she has worked in the interdisciplinary format of the CHLA Foster Care Hub clinic where pediatricians join with psychologists to complete initial health assessments of children entering the foster care system. She has conducted and published interdisciplinary research on populations traversing for child welfare systems. Dr. Rao has also served as a training presenter for training sessions for health professionals within the context of Los Angeles Department of Public Health and Los Angeles Department of Child and Family Services. She is also very committed to facilitating education and advocacy for vulnerable populations of children.

Remer, Patrick Patrick runs the Pleasant Hill Community Library in Contra Costa County, where he fosters literacy and lifelong learning for all ages. His team strives to support the healthy growth and development of children and families, while empowering the whole community to co-create new and engaging library experiences. Patrick has worked in educational settings from preschool to high school and has served families for nearly a decade now in public libraries. He is currently active in the California State Library's Early Learning with Families Initiative which has partnered with the Brazelton Touchpoints Center in Boston to develop a unique training for libraries. He recently presented at TEDx in Sausalito on children's creativity.

Rogers, Karen Karen is a licensed clinical psychologist and Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at USC Keck School of Medicine. She is the Program Area Leader for Project Heal, the trauma and foster care treatment and training program at Children's Hospital Los Angeles Mental Health Services/University of Southern California University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities. She provides training in Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy and Parent Child Interaction Therapy for psychology interns and fellows working with a diverse community mental health population. Previously, she was Director of Prevention and Community Education at a community mental health center in New Hampshire. She completed a post-doctoral fellowship in child and family forensic psychology at Dartmouth Medical School. Her clinical specialty is assessment and treatment of children and families exposed to trauma.

**Rothermel,
Angela**

Angela supports Children Now's ongoing advocacy efforts to improve California's health, education and media policies for young children (birth to eight) and their families. Her work focuses primarily on expanding voluntary home visiting programs, promoting universal developmental screenings and ensuring services to young children with developmental delays. She brings experience in collaborative strategy, and implementation of evidence-based practice at a community scale. Before joining Children Now, Angela held positions within various early childhood systems and policy efforts in Colorado. She directed a Denver Metro area public-private collaboration working to improve early childhood outcomes for vulnerable children and families, and served as project coordinator for collective community efforts related to juvenile delinquency prevention, early childhood quality improvement, and mental health systems. Angela has served on numerous early childhood task forces and leadership teams. Additionally, she has worked directly with early childhood education classroom staff and parents as a community representative on a local Head Start Policy Council, and as a facilitator for both the Expanding Quality for Infants and Toddlers and the Parent Leadership Training Institute curricula in Colorado. She holds a Master's degree in Educational Policy & Practice from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and a B.A. from Middlebury College in Vermont.

**Salcedo,
Patricia**

Patty is Co-Director for the Desired Results Access Project, which provides access to the statewide assessment for children with Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) and Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). She has taught extensively in early childhood special education, holding teaching credentials in visual impairment, learning handicaps, and general education. She has her Master's degree in Educational Administration/Policy Studies. Patty is the mother of two adult daughters, one of whom has multiple disabilities.

**Sarmiento,
Debra**

Debra has served as one of the CDC's "Learn The Signs. Act Early." Co-Ambassadors to California since 2014, focusing on providing information on promoting knowledge of developmental milestones and encouraging routine developmental screening to early care and education providers, parents and healthcare providers. She works as the State Network Manager for the Family Resource Centers Network of California (FRCNCA), a membership organization comprised of California's 47 Early Start Family Resource Centers.

**Savage,
Susan**

Susan is the Director of Research at the Child Care Resource Center, a large non-profit child and family organization serving Northern Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties. Under the leadership of Dr. Savage, her evaluation team has earned an excellent reputation for its work serving the program development and evaluation needs of agencies throughout the state of California. She has led program evaluations across a diverse set of topics including child development and school readiness, impact of child care subsidies, workforce development and quality improvement, obesity prevention, disaster preparedness and pandemic awareness in child care settings. Susan has extensive experience in contract monitoring and agency self-evaluation for federal, state, and county contracts. She is skilled in directing evaluation projects that include both quantitative and qualitative methods. In the area of social policy, Dr. Savage directs policy-relevant research that is brought to Sacramento and Washington, D.C. to partner with our legislators and policy makers in making informed, data-driven decisions. She is also experienced at developing web-based databases for tracking data from multiple locations and is now working to create a mechanism for linking child care data with other social service data. Dr. Savage holds a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology with a minor in Quantitative Methods from the University of California, Riverside and a B.A. in Psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles.

**Schiff-Ross,
Lani**

Lani currently serves as the Executive Director of First 5 San Joaquin. She is one of the last few “originals”. She previously worked at San Joaquin County Public Health Services overseeing the Teen Parent Program. She has worked in the field of gangs, domestic violence, sex offenders, child abuse and mental health. Lani is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, receiving her MSW at California State University Sacramento and her BA from University of the Pacific, Stockton.

**Schroeder,
Elizabeth**

Elizabeth is the Research Associate for the Desired Results Access Project. For over four years, she has coordinated the efforts to design and implement the DR Access Reports online system and is responsible for providing training and technical support to the field to use the system. She has worked for the past thirteen years in research and evaluation for projects focused on early childhood special education, both nationally and within California.

**Schweitzer,
Zoe**

Zoe is a Program Analyst for Choose Health LA Kids, a program of the Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Initiative, administered by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and funded by First 5 LA. Zoe received her M.S. in Food Policy and Applied Nutrition from Tufts University, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy specializing in public health and nutrition interventions. She has spent the last three years managing programs and grants to improve nutrition and promote food access in Los Angeles County.

**Sciarrino,
Chris**

Chris leads projects designed to accelerate innovation and experimentation of best practices in early childhood. In collaboration with California’s Starting Strong and Smart communities, she supports development and implementation of cutting edge professional development models tailored to address specific early learning needs. Most recently she worked for the National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning and brings a rich and varied background of field experience (including infant/toddler home visiting curricula development, an infant/toddler social communication curriculum, program leadership in Early Head Start, Head Start, charter school administration, etc.). Her passion is translating current research into daily interactions that matter for children and families.

**Silverman,
Debra**

Debi is an Education Administrator at First 5 California and oversees the First 5 California Training and Continuous Quality Improvement activities, including supporting local and regional assessor management and coaching quality standards for the California QRIS, and guiding development and implementation of innovative early childhood workforce development opportunities. Prior to joining F5CA in 2013, she was Program Officer at First 5 Contra Costa for 11 years, where she managed countywide QRIS and school readiness programs. Debra holds a doctorate in Educational Leadership and Innovation from the University of Colorado. Over the last 35 years, she has worked as a CLASS trainer, university faculty, preschool director, educational researcher, and elementary school teacher.

**Sneeringer,
Donna**

Donna is Director of Government Relations for the Child Care Resource Center (CCRC). She began her career at CCRC in 1992 and through her seven-year tenure developed her knowledge of subsidized child care programs, resource and referral and quality program development. In 1999, Donna moved to Sacramento and spent over 11 years at Child Action, Inc. where she worked as their Child Care Resource and Referral Manager focused on program development, personnel management, and community relations, and then as Public Affairs Manager focusing on local, state, and federal public policy issues, contract management, fund development, agency communications and media relations. She returned to CCRC in 2012 as their Director of Government Relations, focused on public policy related to child care and early learning. In addition, she currently serves on the First 5 Sacramento Commission. Donna holds a M.A. in Public Administration and Graduate Certificate in Political Management from the University of Southern California, and a B.A. in Child Development from California State University, Northridge.

**Sparrow,
Joshua**

Joshua is Director of the Brazelton Touchpoints Center in the Division of Development of Medicine at Boston Children's Hospital, where he holds appointments in both Developmental Medicine and Psychiatry. He is a principal investigator for the National Center for Parent, Family and Community Engagement (Office of Head Start, Office of Child Care, ACF, HHS), and part time associate professor in psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. At the Brazelton Center, his work has focused on cultural adaptations of family support programs, organizational professional development, cross-sector collaboration, and aligning systems of care with community strengths and priorities.

**Stewart,
Fiona**

In her more than 25 years in the early childhood care and education field, Fiona has worked as a teacher and director in early childhood programs, a college instructor, grant administrator, program director and as a consultant, trainer, and facilitator on child development, early childhood education, diversity and anti-bias, conflict resolution, leadership, and grant funding. She currently works as the Program Director of the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles, a network partnership of the child care R&R and Alternative Payment agencies across the county. In this capacity she oversees all county-wide training and coaching programs at member agencies, including the Gateways for Early Educators™ professional development system, the Quality Start LA (QRIS) coaching, and the California Early Care & Education Workforce Registry for Los Angeles County. Fiona was recently awarded a Master Leader from the Exchange Leadership Initiative "in recognition of leadership in making a difference for children, families and community."

**Takada,
Erika**

Erika is a senior research associate at Harder+Company Community Research. Erika is a seasoned evaluator with a deep commitment to helping the social sector adapt complex research methods to real world settings. She has more than 15 years of experience researching public health, education, early childhood, and human services. Her work has ranged from designing and leading sophisticated longitudinal studies of child and family outcomes to overseeing rapid-cycle evaluations of community-based media advocacy efforts. She is currently focused on several evaluation projects that address quality of early care and education through QRIS, professional development, strengthening community systems, and social innovation. Clients include the Packard Foundation, multiple First 5 Counties, and other community-based organizations and foundations. Erika is also adjunct faculty at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey and an advisory board member for BELL's early learning projects.

Tang, Wei-Min Wei-min manages First 5 San Francisco's early education data and evaluation portfolio and the Commission's strategic communications. He has worked in early education research, evaluation, and policy for more than 15 years. His background is in education and urban policy and includes experience in federal, state, and local governments and the philanthropic sector. Wei-min holds a Master of Public Affairs degree from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin.

Tanner, Nicole O. Nicole is Cofounder and Managing Partner at VIVA Strategy + Communications, a Bay Area social impact consulting firm that provides strategy and communications services to nonprofits, public agencies, and philanthropic organizations to support large-scale social impact projects. Nicole brings more than 20 years of experience focused on early childhood initiatives and has worked with First 5 Commissions and their partners across California. She has led numerous strategic planning, initiative design, and communications projects at the local, regional, and statewide level, with an emphasis on young children and families. Over the past five years, she and her team have been actively involved with the design of local and regional QRISs, working on local projects in 12 counties, as well as at the regional and statewide levels. This has included strategic communications planning, branding, website and collateral development to support participation and community engagement in quality early learning and the QRIS. Nicole has a doctorate in Educational Leadership & Organizations from the University of California, Santa Barbara, with a focus on leadership in community partnerships for children.

Tonyan, Holli Dr. Tonyan is an Associate Professor of Psychology at the California State University, Northridge where she studies early social and emotional development as well as the cultural organization of non-parental child care settings. She is the Co-leader of the (US) Home-based Child Care Work Group, a member of the (US) Child Care Policy Research Consortium, the Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee, the Society for Research on Child Development, and a mother of two children who both attended a family child care home. Her current work builds from her 20 years of experience and uses mixed-methods grounded in Eco(logical)-cultural Theory to understand the cultural organization of licensed family child care settings and when and how licensed family child care providers engage in quality improvement on their own or in formal initiatives.

Torres Siders, Jennifer Jennifer earned a bachelor's degree at Northwestern University and a master's at University of Westminster in London; both degrees in journalism. She then spent nearly a decade as a reporter for *The Record* newspaper in Stockton, California, covering education, demographics, and issues involving children and families. In 2011, she joined the University of the Pacific's Community Relations office, helping to coordinate the Beyond Our Gates early literacy initiative. Through this initiative, the University has convened a group of community leaders all working to improve early literacy throughout San Joaquin County. Jennifer and husband, David Siders, have two daughters, Alice, and Soledad.

True, Susan Susan is the Director of Education Strategy & Ventures at the Kenneth Rainin Foundation. Her efforts with the Foundation will increase the number of children reading at grade level by the end of third grade through expanded access to high quality preschool, supports for families, and increased use of effective literacy development teaching strategies. Susan's career reflects a deep passion for the healthy development of children. Her background includes serving as Executive Director of First 5 Santa Cruz County for nine years. During that time, over 95 percent of the county's children were enrolled in health insurance, the rate of child maltreatment decreased, and the percentage of preschool children on target for later reading success more than doubled. Prior to her work at First 5, Susan was Director of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Santa Cruz County, Co-Principal Investigator of a University of California public health research project, and founder of a grassroots HIV prevention program. In 2008, she was elected to the Cabrillo College Board of Trustees. She has also been a foster parent and advocated for improvements in the child welfare system. Susan earned a B.A. in Community Studies from University of California, Santa Cruz, and a Master's degree from Stanford University Graduate School of Business.

Trujillo, Cyndi Cyndi is the Manager of Child Care Resource Center's (CCRC) Training Academy, Health and Safety trainings, and Emergency Preparedness project. She has worked at CCRC for over 20 years with families and child care providers to increase the quality of care provided to children in the community. She has extensive experience with program development, program management, and relationships with funders. Through her work, CCRC has successfully been awarded four First 5 LA-funded programs including School Readiness, Family Child Care Home Visitation Training Program, and recently a home visitation program for parents. Ms. Trujillo has a Bachelor of Arts in Child Development from California State University, Northridge.

Turk-Bicakci, Lori Lori is a senior manager at the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health where she promotes data-based decision making to improve children's health and wellness. In partnership with the Foundation's Kidsdata team, she ensures the quality, relevance, and utility of the research and content on kidsdata.org, a comprehensive data source dedicated to providing high-quality information about children's health and wellness issues. Before joining the Foundation, Dr. Turk-Bicakci was a senior researcher and project director at American Institutes for Research. She has extensive experience with project management, data collection, analysis, and reporting for social welfare and education research projects, and has a particular interest in diminishing disparity. Prior to her work in research, Dr. Turk-Bicakci was a middle school social studies teacher.

**Villafana,
Priscilla**

Priscilla is a Behavioral Health Specialist for the YMCA Childcare Resource Service, and has been working with the organization for 12 years. She conducts assessments and observations for children with behavioral concerns in their preschool environment and helps early childhood educators and parents with strategies that can help with the caregivers' concerns. She also creates and trains early childhood educators on various behavioral topics that will enhance their professional growth and knowledge. Priscilla received her B.A. in psychology from San Diego State University in 2005. As an undergraduate she emphasized her studies in mental health and conducted research assessing patients with a mental disorder, and presenting her study at the American Psychological Association conference. In 2007, she received her M.Ed. degree in school psychology from Alliant University. During her studies she worked with various aged children conducting complete psycho-educational and behavioral assessments. She truly enjoys her career, and being able to make a difference and contribute to children's growth and development every day. When she is not working, she spends her time being a mommy, cooking, and doing family activities.

**Wade, Kim
McCoy**

Kim was appointed Chief of the CalFresh Branch, Welfare to Work Division, California Department of Social Services in August 2015. Kim was most recently an independent policy consultant. She also served as the Executive Director at the California Association of Food Banks. Previously, Kim held policy leadership positions at national organizations in Washington D.C., including the Alliance for Justice, Bread for the World, and the Children's Defense Fund. She earned a Juris Doctor degree from the New York University School of Law.

Wahl, Kathy

Kathy is the Director II of Inclusion Collaborative and the Education Preparation for Inclusive Classrooms (EPIC) credentialing program at the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE). She has worked for the Inclusion Collaborative since 2014, being involved in the development and implementation of the EPIC Credentialing Program and the State Annual Inclusion Conference held at the SCCOE. Kathy has worked for SCCOE since 1995, starting as a Nutrition Consultant and then as an Early Childhood Special Education Teacher/Nutritionist for the SCCOE Early Start Program. Kathy has worked with teachers, students, and families across the county in center-based and home-based programs and now currently supports local districts in creating new inclusion programs at the preschool level. She has taught at local community colleges, developed inclusive training tracks for community colleges, and worked for many community agencies in Santa Clara County. Kathy earned her B.S in Dietetics and Food Administration at California Polytechnic State University and her M.A in Early Intervention Services, Special Education Program from Santa Clara University.

**Walkley,
Meg**

Meg is the Children and Family Support Specialist at Humboldt County Office of Education in partnership with First 5 Humboldt. Meg serves as a trainer and co-coordinator for the 0 to 8 Mental Health Collaborative.

Westervelt, Gerrit

Gerrit serves as Director of Early Childhood Policy and Resource Development for WestEd's Center for Child & Family Studies, where he works to expand the organization's impact on early childhood policy and practice, nationally and regionally. He leads new business development and marketing, product development, and the creation of strategic partnerships with private foundations, state agencies, and others in the field. He serves as liaison with national and state early childhood organizations, and works to support the development of comprehensive early childhood policy frameworks and service delivery systems. Gerrit served for many years as Executive Director of the BUILD Initiative, supporting states in creating comprehensive, high-quality early childhood systems. He led the creation of the QRIS National Learning Network, a peer learning and support network to refine and scale up early childhood quality rating and improvement systems. He has worked extensively with state early childhood and K-12 leaders, including nine years at the Education Commission of the States, and has given numerous presentations on early childhood and K-12 education policy to diverse audiences and media outlets. Westervelt received a B.A. in communications from Ithaca College, an M.S. in political science from the University at Albany, and a Ph.D. in educational leadership from the University of Colorado.

White, Renee

Renee has been teaching ages 0 to 5 for 15 years in the Fresno County community. She loves to help children move on to their next level as prepared as possible. She believes it's such an exciting age to teach and that we never stop learning!

Williams, Marian

Marian is an Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at University of Southern California and a licensed psychologist specializing in infant-family and early childhood mental health and developmental disabilities in children. Based at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, she is Program Area Lead for the Early Childhood Mental Health Program and Director of the Stein Tikun Olam Infant-Family Mental Health Initiative. Through these programs, she trains clinicians, interns, and fellows in infant-family mental health assessment and intervention. She leads a Birth to Five Mental Health Training project providing core training to early childhood mental health professionals throughout Los Angeles County, and leads the Training and Technical Assistance project for First Connections, a three-year project funded by First 5 Los Angeles to enhance developmental screening and linkage for young children from underserved communities.

Williams, Shannon

Shannon has over 15 years of experience conducting complex research projects as well as evaluating health, education, and social service programs. Her primary focus has been evaluating intervention programs that target diverse cultural and socioeconomic groups, and hard-to-reach populations. She is currently the evaluator for the Birth and Beyond program which provides parenting classes and supports for families at risk for child-maltreatment through nine Family Resource Centers. Other areas of professional concentration include facilitating evidence-based programming, organizational learning, and using data/measurement for accountability. Dr. Williams is the Research Director at LPC Consulting Associates, Inc. in Sacramento, CA.

Wirtz, Steve As an acting chief with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Steve deals with myriad issues facing today's youth, including drug, alcohol, and child abuse. "My focus has always... been on starting from the view of children and what's best for children." Acting Chief of the Injury Surveillance and Epidemiology Section, Steve is a clinical psychologist and has been with CDPH for 15 years. He oversees programs involving child neglect, fatal child abuse, alcohol, drugs and violence against women. His efforts include prevention programs and the development of systems to report and track abuse. Steve earned both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from California State University, Sacramento. He has a doctorate in developmental psychology from Boston University. When working at the Child Abuse Prevention Council, he created and managed several programs involving perinatal substance abuse and child death reviews. Steve volunteers on many boards and commissions in the area. He is an active member of the Sacramento County Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board and also part of the Blue Ribbon Commission on disproportionate African-American Child Deaths.

Woods, Keesha Keesha has been the Director for the Los Angeles County Office of Education Head Start-State Preschool (LACOE HS-SP) Division since May 2011. Her 20 years of management experience in social services and Head Start prepared her to assume the role of Director of the HS-SP Division. For six years, she was the unit manager with the California Department of Social Services, where she supervised program monitors and evaluators who ensured child care providers met or exceeded established standards of services. One of her primary roles was the development of field operation monitoring systems and capacity-building processes. Keesha led the grants development and management team as program manager for planning, the refunding process, and eligibility and enrollment. For six years, she served as the LACOE HS-SP's assistant director for internal and external affairs, where she supervised the following teams: planning and eligibility, recruitment, selection, enrollment and attendance (ERSEA), communications and community outreach, research and evaluation, and data management and information systems, leading the Division in standardizing the recordkeeping systems. Keesha holds a bachelor's and master's degrees in public administration and a professional certification in leadership management from UCLA's Anderson School of Management. She is an active board member of the California Head Start Association where she has served for the past eight years. Appointed as Commissioner to the LA County Policy Roundtable, she brought a strong public policy background to shape the infrastructure of early childhood education for Los Angeles County.

Woolford, Emily Emily is the Assistant Chief of the Early Start and Health Services Section at the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Emily began her work at the Department as a Student Assistant while she was earning her bachelor's degree at UC Davis. What she thought was just a temporary job to get through school became a passion, and a career was born. Over the last 20 years, she has contributed to key statewide initiatives such as the Wellness Initiative and the Autism Spectrum Disorder Initiative. This work laid the foundation for subject matter knowledge in the unique health needs of persons with developmental disabilities. Emily is a member of the California Autism Professional Training and Information Network. And, she serves as DDS' Project Manager for Early Start's California Statewide Personnel Development activities. As part of the DDS Leadership Team for the Early Start Statewide Systemic Improvement Plan, she is working in partnership with the Early Start Community on the "Take a Minute. Relationships Matter!" campaign.

Young, Kelly Kelly joined WarmLine Family Resource Center in 2011 as the Executive Director. WarmLine provides support, information, and trainings to families of children with disabilities in Northern California. Prior to her employment at WarmLine, Kelly was the Early Start Institute Coordinator at WestEd. Her responsibilities included arranging and coordinating large scale training events, developing and maintaining relationships with state agencies and consultants, and guiding the development of training materials and presentations. Kelly was a staff attorney for Disability Rights California where she advocated for the rights of people with developmental disabilities. She was a specialized consultant for SEEDS (Supporting Early Education Delivery Systems) Project of the Sacramento County Office of Education, assisting the California Department of Education in monitoring and technical assistance provision to local education agencies. Kelly Young has a BA degree in Business Administration, Accountancy from California State University, Sacramento and a Juris Doctor from Lincoln Law School. Kelly is a parent of a young woman with disabilities.